

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06708 281044Z

14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 EAE-00 /061 W

----- 115476

O 280940Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2454

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 6708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR OVIP KS (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECDEF VISIT

SUMMARY:

VISIT OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER TO SEOUL FOR SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING DOMINATED LOCAL PRESS, RADIO AND T.V. AUGUST 26-28. PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO CONTENTS JOINT STATEMENT, SECRETARIES PRESS CONFERENCE, AND PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PAK. HIGHLIGHTS WERE U.S. "PROMISE" TO ASSIST IN "A SECOND 5-YEAR FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN," REAFFIRMATION THAT THERE IS NO PLAN TO REDUCE LEVEL U.S. FORCES IN ROK, REFUSAL TO RULE OUT FIRST USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REPORTED FIRM PLEDGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT PAK THAT U.S. WOULD HONOR DEFENSE COMMITMENT BY GIVING IMMEDIATE AID TO REPELL NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. EDITORIAL COMMENT STRESSED ROK-US AGREEMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES AND CALLED JOINT STATEMENT FIRST "OFFICIAL" REAFFIRMATION OF US COMMITMENT SINCE FALL OF INDOCHINA. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06708 281044Z

1. ALL PAPERS PRINTED FULL TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ("JOINT COMMUNIQUE"). IN INTERPRETIVE REPORTS OF STATEMENT PRESS EMPHASIZED SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES THAT U.S. WOULD PROVIDE IMMEDIATE SUPPORT

FOR ROK IN EVENT OF ATTACK AND THAT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REDUCE PRESENT LEVEL OF U.S. FORCES IN ROK (VERNACULAR PRESS REPORTED "PRESENT TROOP LEVEL TO BE MAINTAINED"). PAPERS ALSO REPORTED U.S. PLEDGE TO DO UTMOST TO EFFECT EARLY COMPLETION OF MOD PLAN. DRAWING ON PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE SO, MOST PAPERS INTERPRETED SECRETARY'S STATEMENT CONCERNING CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR ROK SELF-RELIANCE AS, IN EFFECT, CONSTITUTING PROMISE OF US SUPPORT FOR A "SECOND FIVE-YEAR FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN." (MINISTER SO IN FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ABOUT CLASSIFIED PLAN FUNDED FROM NEW DEFENSE TAX SAID PLAN WOULD BRING ROK FORCES UP TO LEVEL OF NORTH KOREAN FORCES.)

2. PRESS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE WAS CARRIED BY LOCAL TV AND RADIO. PRESS REPORTED AS LEAD ITEM FROM PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SECRETARY HAD REFUSED TO RULE OUT USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON AS LAST RESORT. HOWEVER, REPORTS NOTED THAT SECDEF CONSIDERED CONVENTIONAL BALANCE NOT UNSATISFACTORY, THE NEED FOR USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNLIKELY, AND THAT, IF WISE, NORTH WOULD NOT CONTEMPLATE ATTACK. ALSO REPORTED WERE SECRETARY'S HOPE THAT MOD PLAN WOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1977, THAT U.S. HAD AGREED TO SALE OF F-4 AND F-5 AIRCRAFT TO ROK, THAT US HAS NO PLANS TO MOVE 2ND DIVISION SOUTH OF THE HAN RIVER, AND THAT US FORCES COULD BE COMMITTED TO ACTION BEFORE US CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

3. QUOTING GOVERNMENT SOURCES, PRESS REPORTED THAT DURING PRIVATE MEETING SECRETARY, AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT FORD, CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT PAK A FIRM US PLEDGE TO HONOR ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT BY PROVIDING IMMEDIATE SUPPORT IN CASE OF NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY ALSO DISCUSSED WAYS OF MAINTAINING PEACE IN ASIA AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06708 281044Z

KOREAN PENINSULA.

4. EDITORIAL IN PRO-GOVERNMENT KYONGHYANG SINMUN STATED THAT SCM WAS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT DEMONSTRATED THE PRESIDENT PAK'S VIEWS OF ROK SECURITY AGREE WITH SCHLESINGER'S STRATEGIC CONCEPTS AND THAT THIS MEETING "COMPLETELY SETTLED" PENDING PROBLEMS. EDITORIAL LISTED FOLLOWING POINTS OF US-ROK AGREEMENT:
-NO REDUCTION IN 42,000 US TROOPS
-US GUARANTEE OF IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE AID
IN EVENT N.K. ARMED ATTACK
-COMPLETION OF MOD PLAN BY 1977

-U.S. PROMISE TO AID ROK INDEPENDENT DEFENSE
EFFORT

5. --EDITORIAL NOTED THAT FIGURE OF 3 BILLION
DOLLARS FOR ROK IMPROVEMENT PLAN WAS DISCUSSED AT
MEETING, WHILE EXPRESSING HOPE THAT US WOULD PROVIDE
INVESTMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEFENSE
INDUSTRY SO THAT ROK CAN ACHIEVE INDEPENDENT DEFENSE
WITHIN 5 YEARS. GOVERNMENT SEOUL SINMUN RAN EDITORIAL
MAKING GENERALLY SAME POINTS AS ABOVE, STRESSING
THAT IN EVENT OF N.K. ATTACK PRESIDENT FORD WOULD COMMIT
US FORCES PRIOR TO CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

6. CHUNGANG ILBO EDITORIAL MENTIONED DIFFEERENCES
BETWEEN ROK AND US AS TO NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS,
STATING THAT ROK CONSIDERS ATTACK IMMINENT WHILE US
BELIEVES DETERRENT OF COMBINED FORCES ADEQUATE.
CHUNGANG SAW AS MOST SIGNIFICANT THAT US COMMITMENTS
MADE BY PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER US OFFICIALS WERE
MADE "OFFICIAL" FOR FIRST TIME SINCE FALL OF
INDOCHINA BY BEING INCLUDED IN JOINT STATEMENT.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL06708
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750298-0034
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508102/baaaauri.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MARR, OVIP, KS, (SCHLESINGER, JAMES R)
To: STATE
TOKYO INFO CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006